

TITLE

PLASMA DISPLAY PANEL

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

[0001] This application makes reference to, incorporates the same herein, and claims all benefits accruing under 35 U.S.C. §119 from an application for *PLASMA DISPLAY PANEL* earlier filed in the Korean Intellectual Property Office on 27 September 2002 and there duly assigned Serial No. 2002-58892.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a plasma display panel. More particularly, the present invention relates to a plasma display panel including discharge cells that are defined by barrier rib members formed on a rear substrate of the plasma display panel, in which the barrier rib members intersect and are parallel to display electrodes formed on a front substrate.

2. Description of the Related Art

[0003] A plasma display panel (PDP) is a display device that realizes the display of images by the illumination or excitation of phosphors by plasma discharge. Predetermined voltages are applied to electrodes formed on front and rear substrates of the PDP to realize plasma discharge in discharge cells defined by barrier ribs. Ultraviolet rays generated during discharge excite phosphor layers

1 formed in a predetermined pattern to realize the display of visual images.

2 **[0004]** The PDP is classified into the two different types of the DC PDP and AC PDP, depending
3 on the drive voltage waveform, that is, the discharge type. PDPs can be classified also as an opposing
4 discharge PDP and a surface discharge PDP, depending on the electrode structure. The surface
5 discharge PDP typically includes a front substrate and a rear substrate. Further, address electrodes
6 are formed in a predetermined pattern on the rear substrate, and a dielectric layer is formed on the
7 address electrodes. Barrier ribs are formed on the dielectric layer. The barrier ribs define discharge
8 cells and prevent electrical and optical crosstalk between the cells. Phosphor layers are formed along
9 at least one wall of each of the barrier ribs.

10 **[0005]** Display electrodes are formed in a predetermined pattern on a surface of the front substrate
11 opposing the rear substrate. The display electrodes are orthogonal to the address electrodes. Further,
12 the display electrodes are formed of a transparent material, and bus electrodes having a width that
13 is less than a width of the display electrodes are formed on the display electrodes to reduce a line
14 resistance of the same. A dielectric layer is formed covering the display electrodes and bus
15 electrodes.

16 **[0006]** In the PDP structured as in the above, the barrier ribs define the discharge cells and prevent
17 crosstalk between the discharge cells as described above, and also protect the discharge cells from
18 external pressure applied during sealing of the front and rear substrates. If a height of the barrier ribs
19 is increased, a size of the discharge cells is increased. This increases an area of deposition of the
20 phosphor layers, which, in turn, enhances brightness. However, in the conventional stripe
21 configuration of the barrier ribs (where the barrier ribs are aligned with the address electrodes), an

1 increase in the height of the barrier ribs makes the space between the address electrodes and display
2 electrodes greater. Since this increases an address voltage, there is a limit to how high the barrier ribs
3 can be formed.

4 [0007] The applicant disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,495,958 a plasma display panel that includes
5 conductive wire electrodes such that power consumption is reduced during operation. This plasma
6 display panel will be described with reference to FIG. 1.

7 [0008] As illustrated in the drawing, a PDP 100 includes a front substrate 102 and a rear substrate
8 104. Formed on a surface of the front substrate 102 opposing the rear substrate 104 are display
9 electrodes 106 that include common electrodes 106a and scan electrodes 106b. A dielectric layer 108
10 is formed on the front substrate 102 covering the display electrodes 106, and a protection layer 110
11 such as a magnesium oxide layer is formed covering the dielectric layer 108. The common electrodes
12 106a and the scan electrodes 106b are formed in an alternating manner.

13 [0009] Barrier ribs 112 are formed in a stripe pattern on a surface of the rear substrate 104 opposing
14 the front substrate 102. Discharge cells are formed between the barrier ribs 112. The barrier ribs 112
15 prevent crosstalk between the cells during discharge. Further, red, green, and blue phosphor layers
16 114 that are illuminated by discharge gas are formed in the discharge cells. Address electrodes 116
17 are formed on the phosphor layers 114 in a state orthogonal to the display electrodes 106 of the front
18 substrate 102. The interaction between the address electrodes 116 and the discharge sustain (or
19 display) electrodes 106 induces plasma discharges and has the phosphor illuminate in the
20 neighborhood of the intersection of the address electrodes 116 and the display electrodes 106. The
21 address electrodes 116 are formed as wires made of a conductive metal material such as aluminum,

1 copper, gold, or white gold. The address electrodes 116 are coated with an insulation 118.

2 [0010] In the PDP 100 structured as described above, since the address electrodes 116 are mounted
3 on the phosphor layers 114, the space between the address electrodes 116 and the display electrodes
4 106 may be reduced over more conventional PDPs in which the address electrodes are covered by
5 a dielectric layer. Accordingly, the amount of power consumed may be reduced during operation of
6 the PDP in proportion to the reduction in the space between the address electrodes 116 and the
7 display electrodes 106. Also, the barrier ribs 112 may be formed to a greater height such that the
8 discharge cells and the phosphor deposition area are increased to enhance brightness and realize
9 more stable discharge.

10 [0011] However, a drawback of the above configuration is that terminal areas of the wire-type
11 address electrodes 116 that protrude to the outside of the PDP are secured only by a sealant used to
12 seal the substrates 102 and 104. This may result in the terminal areas of the address electrodes 116
13 from becoming unaligned during the sealing process so that a distance between the terminal areas
14 varies from one terminal to the next.

15 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

16 [0012] It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a design for a PDP that results in
17 less power consumption during operation of the PDP.

18 [0013] It is further an object of the present invention to provide a design for a PDP where the amount
19 of power consumption to drive the PDP can be controlled.

20 [0014] It is also an object of the present invention to provide a design for a PDP where image quality

1 is enhanced.

2 **[0015]** It is yet an object of the present invention to provide a design for a PDP where the brightness
3 of the image can be controlled.

4 **[0016]** It is further an object of the present invention to provide a design for a PDP where the
5 brightness of the image is enhanced.

6 **[0017]** It is still yet another object of the present invention to provide a design for a PDP where the
7 possibility of shorting the address electrodes is reduced.

8 **[0018]** These and other objects may be achieved by a design for a PDP that has two sets of barrier
9 ribs formed on or in the rear substrate, each set of barrier ribs runs orthogonal to barrier ribs of the
10 other set. These two sets of barrier ribs form an array of discharge cells where phosphor is placed
11 therein to coat the side walls of the barrier ribs and the bottoms of the discharge cells. Each
12 discharge cell is completely surrounded by the barrier ribs. The address electrodes are disposed in
13 the rear substrate over one of the two sets of the barrier ribs but parallel to the other set of barrier
14 ribs. The address electrodes being orthogonal to the display electrodes formed in the front substrate
15 when the rear and the front substrates are combined. The array of discharge cells may be rectangular
16 in shape, may be staggered from row to row (delta configuration), or may be hexagonal in shape.

17 **[0019]** After formation of both sets of barrier ribs, each discharge cell is coated with phosphor before
18 laying the address electrodes. With this instant design, the phosphor may cover more area in each
19 discharge cell causing the image to be brighter.

20 **[0020]** The amount of voltage and power that is needed to drive the address electrodes can be
21 reduced by diminishing the distance between the display electrodes and the address electrodes. This

1 distance can be diminished if the barrier rib set that supports the address electrode (t2) is high and
2 if the set that runs parallel to the address electrode (t1) is reduced. By varying the heights t1 and t2
3 of the first and second barrier rib members respectively, the PDP can be designed to achieve a certain
4 amount of power consumption by the address electrodes to drive the PDP. Heights t1 and t2 can be
5 modified to change the amount of area coated by phosphor, which effects image brightness. The gap
6 and the image quality can be further enhanced by having the address electrode reside in a cut out
7 portion of the second set of barrier ribs instead of being disposed on top of them.

8 **[0021]** The design may further be enhanced by providing conductive address electrodes coated with
9 a dielectric. The address electrodes may further be coated with a layer of phosphor to further
10 enhance image quality. The conductive address electrode may have a circular or polygonal cross
11 section.

12 **[0022]** The design may yet further be enhanced by securing terminal ends of the address electrodes.
13 At ends of the rear substrate, a cut out or a fixing groove may be formed in the substrate at an edge
14 of the substrate for securing terminal ends of the address electrode. The terminal end of the address
15 electrode may be placed in the cut out or the fixing groove formed in the rear substrate and an
16 adhesive, like an adhesive tape may then be used to secure the terminal end of the address electrode
17 to the fixing groove in the rear substrate to prevent shorting of the address electrodes and to maintain
18 the distance and alignment between the address electrode and the display electrodes.

19 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

20 **[0023]** A more complete appreciation of the invention, and many of the attendant advantages thereof,

1 will be readily apparent as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed
2 description when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which like reference
3 symbols indicate the same or similar components, wherein:

4 **[0024]** FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a plasma display panel of an application filed prior to the
5 present application, in which substrates of the plasma display panel is illustrated in a separated state;

6 **[0025]** FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a plasma display panel according to an embodiment of the
7 present invention, in which substrates of the plasma display panel are illustrated in a separated state;

8 **[0026]** FIG. 3 is a sectional view of a rear substrate of the plasma display panel of FIG. 2 illustrated
9 from a Y axis direction;

10 **[0027]** FIG. 4 is a sectional view of a modified example of the rear substrate of FIG. 3;

11 **[0028]** FIG. 5 is a sectional view of another modified example of the rear substrate of FIG. 3;

12 **[0029]** FIG. 6 is a sectional view of a rear substrate of a plasma display panel according to another
13 embodiment of the present invention;

14 **[0030]** FIG. 7 is a sectional view of a rear substrate of a plasma display panel according to yet
15 another embodiment of the present invention;

16 **[0031]** FIG. 8 is a plane view of a rear substrate in which discharge cells are formed in the shape of
17 a hexagon according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

18 **[0032]** FIG. 9 is a plane view of a rear substrate in which discharge cells are formed in a delta
19 arrangement structure according to an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0033] Turning now to FIG. 2, FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a plasma display panel according to an embodiment of the present invention, in which substrates of the plasma display panel are illustrated in a separated state. A plasma display panel (PDP) 10 of FIG. 3 includes a front substrate 12 and a rear substrate 14 both made of glass and provided opposing one another. Formed on a surface of the front substrate 12 opposing the rear substrate 14 are display electrodes 16, which include common electrodes 16a, scan electrodes 16b, and bus electrodes 16c. The common electrodes 16a and the scan electrodes 16b are formed in a stripe pattern and in an alternating manner. One of the bus electrodes 16c, which are made of a metal material, is formed on each of the common electrodes 16a and the scan electrodes 16b. A dielectric layer 18 is formed over an entire surface of the front substrate 12 covering the display electrodes 16. A protection layer 20 is formed covering the dielectric layer 18 to protect the same and therefore increase the life of the PDP 10. The protection layer 20 also minimizes a reduction in and improves an efficiency of a drive voltage used for secondary electron emission. The protection layer 20 may be made of a magnesium oxide film.

[0034] Formed on a surface of the rear substrate 14 opposing the front substrate 12 are barrier ribs 22. The barrier ribs 22 form discharge cells and prevent crosstalk between the cells during discharge. The barrier ribs 22 include first barrier rib members 22a formed along an axis Y direction to be orthogonal to the display electrodes 16, and second barrier rib members 22b formed along an axis X direction to be parallel with the display electrodes 16. The first barrier rib members 22a intersect the second barrier rib members 22b to form areas enclosed by these elements, that is, to form discharge cells. These discharge cells, unlike the discharge cells in FIG. 1, are bounded on all sides

(closed in completely) by barrier rib members. Unlike the arrangement of FIG. 1, the arrangement of FIG. 3 and the presence of second barrier rib members 22b improves the efficiency of discharge by better defining the discharge space more compactly than the arrangement of FIG. 1. The arrangement of FIG. 3 also allows for a broadening of area that phosphors exist as compared to the arrangement of FIG. 1. As will be discussed later, the shape of the discharge cells defined by the first and the second barrier rib members, can be rectangular, circular, hexagonal, polygonal, staggered or any other shape.

[0035] With reference to FIG. 3, a height t_2 of the second barrier rib members 22b is less than a height t_1 of the first barrier rib members 22a. The height t_2 is significant as the address electrodes 24 are disposed on top of the second barrier rib members 22b. Thus, the height t_2 of the second barrier rib members 22b can effect the distance between the address electrodes 24 and the display electrodes 16 in the final PDP structure. The height t_1 of the first barrier rib member 22a is also significant at t_1 also will effect the distance between the address electrodes 24 and the display electrodes 16. Heights t_1 and t_2 can also influence the amount of phosphor that can be deposited into each discharge cell. Therefore, by varying t_1 and t_2 , the distance between address and display electrodes can be tuned to achieve a desired drive voltage for the address electrodes. Also, by varying t_1 and t_2 , the amount of phosphor that can be deposited in the discharge cell and the surface area the phosphor covers can be varied, thus tuning the brightness of the image on the PDP. Also, by varying t_1 and t_2 , the size of the hole for venting gas can also be finely tuned.

[0036] In FIG. 3, the fact that t_2 is less than t_1 allows for the smooth exhaust of discharge gas generated inside the discharge cells, and permits the easy mounting of address electrodes 24 on the

1 second barrier rib members 22b.

2 [0037] The address electrodes 24 are formed as wires made of a conductive metal material such as
3 aluminum, copper, gold, or white gold. The address electrodes 24 may also be made of wires coated
4 with such a metal material. The address electrodes 24 are coated with a dielectric material 26. The
5 conductive wire forming the address electrodes 24 is circular or elliptical in cross section. However,
6 the present invention is not limited to such a configuration and other polygonal shapes may be used
7 such as a wire having a quadrilateral or pentagonal cross section. Red, green, and blue phosphor
8 layers 28 are deposited to a predetermined thickness in the discharge cells defined by the first barrier
9 rib members 22a and the second barrier rib members 22b.

10 [0038] Fixing grooves 30 are formed in edges of the rear substrate 14. That is, the fixing grooves
11 30 are formed in the rear substrate 14 at areas corresponding to terminal areas of the address
12 electrodes 24, and the terminal areas of the address electrodes 24 are inserted into the fixing grooves
13 30 so that the address electrodes 24 are firmly held in place. This ensures that the address electrodes
14 24 remain aligned when the front substrate 12 and the rear substrate 14 are assembled. The fixing
15 grooves 30 may be formed in the rear substrate 14 by a sandblasting or etching process. An adhesive
16 member 32 such as adhesive tape or adhesive paste may be further provided over the terminal areas
17 of the address electrodes 24 or in the fixing grooves 30 to better secure the terminal areas of the
18 address electrodes 24 in the fixing grooves 30.

19 [0039] In the PDP 10 structured as in the above, the closed barrier rib structure is used as described
20 above, and by varying the height t_2 of the second barrier rib members 22b, a height of the address
21 electrodes 24 is also easily varied, thereby varying the distance between the address electrodes 24

1 and the display electrodes 16. Accordingly, if the height t_1 of the first barrier rib members 22a is
2 increased to enlarge the size of the discharge cells and increase the phosphor deposition area, the
3 distance between the address electrodes 24 and the display electrodes 16 may be minimized by
4 increasing the height t_2 of the second barrier rib members 22b to thereby lower an address discharge
5 voltage and an addressing time.

6 **[0040]** Further, with the provision of the fixing grooves 30 that secure the terminal areas of the
7 address electrodes 24, the terminals of the address electrodes 24 remain aligned during assembly of
8 the front and rear substrates 12 and 14. This prevents a short from developing in the address
9 electrodes 24.

10 **[0041]** FIGS. 4 and 5 illustrate modified examples of the PDP 10 of FIG. 4. In the PDP of FIG. 4,
11 the phosphor layers 28 are formed along inner walls of not only the first barrier rib members 22a but
12 along inner walls also of the second barrier rib members 22b. That is, the phosphor layers 28 are
13 deposited within all of the discharge cells. The address electrodes 24 are realized through conductive
14 wires coated with a dielectric material 26, and are mounted on the second barrier wall members 22b
15 as in the PDP of FIG. 3.

16 **[0042]** In the PDP of FIG. 5, the address electrodes 24 are wires coated with a dielectric material 26
17 and a phosphor layer 28. That is, the address electrodes 24 are conductive wires coated first with the
18 dielectric material 26 then with the phosphor layer 28. It is preferable that the phosphor layer 28 is
19 identical in color to the phosphor layer 28 coated in the corresponding discharge cell. Since the
20 phosphor layers 28 are coated over the address electrodes 24 in addition to forming the phosphor
21 layers 28 along inner walls of the first and second barrier rib members 22a and 22b, the areas of

deposition of the phosphor material is further increased.

[0043] FIG. 6 is a sectional view of a rear substrate of a PDP according to another embodiment of the present invention. The PDP is illustrated in a state before phosphor layers are deposited. Barrier ribs 122 include first barrier rib members 122a and second barrier rib members 122b, which are formed to the same height as the first barrier rib members 122a. Grooves 222b into which address electrodes 24 are inserted are formed in distal ends of the second barrier rib members 122b. The rest of the structure is identical to the PDP of FIG. 3.

[0044] FIG. 8 is a sectional view of a rear substrate of a plasma display panel according to yet another embodiment of the present invention. A height of second barrier rib members 322b is less than a height of first barrier rib members 322. Also, fixing grooves 422b are formed in distal ends of the second barrier rib members 322b. The rest of the structure is identical to the PDP of FIGS. 3 and 4.

[0045] The barrier ribs for the PDP of the above embodiments may be formed by coating a barrier rib paste to a predetermined height, laminating the paste with a dry film resist, exposing and developing the resulting structure, then performing sandblasting. Heights of the first and second barrier rib members may be made different by changing a line width of the dry film resist, or by pattern printing the barrier rib paste where the first barrier rib members are to be formed to increase the height of the first barrier rib members. The barrier ribs may also be formed by cutting the glass substrates, or by using a mold to form barrier rib paste to the desired shape.

[0046] In the embodiments of the present invention, the discharge cells are described as being formed as quadrilateral shapes when viewed from above. However, when the above basic structure

1 of placing wire-shaped address electrodes over barrier rib members is used, the present invention is
2 not limited to such a configuration and the discharge cells may be formed to other shapes by the
3 barrier ribs.

4 **[0047]** In more detail, the discharge cells may be formed in the shape of a hexagon as illustrated in
5 FIG. 8, or may be formed in a delta arrangement or staggered rectangular structure as illustrated in
6 FIG. 9. Wires forming address electrodes in either case may be formed having a cross section that
7 is rounded or polygonal (e.g., a rectangle or hexagon).

8 **[0048]** With reference to FIG. 8, first barrier rib members are formed in a zigzag configuration along
9 an axis Y direction, and second barrier rib members are formed interconnecting adjacent first barrier
10 rib members at predetermined areas by extending in an axis X direction. Wire-shaped address
11 electrodes 24 are arranged along the axis Y direction and are positioned lying over the second barrier
12 rib members.

13 **[0049]** With reference to FIG. 9, first barrier rib members are formed at predetermined intervals in
14 a stripe pattern and along an axis Y direction. Second barrier rib members are formed extending
15 between adjacent first barrier rib members at predetermined intervals and along an axis X direction.
16 The second barrier rib members are unaligned in the axis X direction from between one pair of the
17 first barrier rib members to between an adjacent pair of the first barrier rib members. Wire-shaped
18 address electrodes 24 are arranged along the axis Y direction and are positioned lying over the
19 second barrier rib members.

20 **[0050]** In the PDP of the present invention described above, the address voltage is not increased and
21 the discharge cells are enlarged by increasing the height of the barrier ribs such that the addressing

1 time is reduced, the discharge quality is improved, and the brightness is increased by the resulting
2 increase in the phosphor deposition area.

3 **[0051]** Further, with the formation of the fixing grooves to secure the terminal areas of the address
4 electrodes, the address electrodes remain aligned during the assembly of the front and rear substrates
5 to thereby prevent the shorting of the address electrodes.

6 **[0052]** Although embodiments of the present invention have been described in detail hereinabove,
7 it should be clearly understood that many variations and/or modifications of the basic inventive
8 concepts herein taught which may appear to those skilled in the present art will still fall within the
9 spirit and scope of the present invention, as defined in the appended claims.